

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Birmingham Fastener & Supply Inc

Alabama Technology Network

#### Birmingham Fastener "More Secure" After OSHA Training

##### Client Profile:

Birmingham Fastener, located in Birmingham, Alabama, is a full service fastener manufacturer and distributor. Birmingham Fastener specializes in mass production of "T-Head" bolts and specialty fasteners for the waterworks industry, hot forging of head styles from 1/2" to 2" in diameter in lengths of 6" and longer and threading of unlimited lengths from 1/2" to 4" in diameter. Established in 1980, the company employs 245 people at its facility in Birmingham, Alabama.

##### Situation:

Birmingham Fastener's Safety and Health Director, Derryl Salzburn, wanted to raise awareness of applicable OSHA standards and increase employees' ability to recognize and correct hazards in the workplace. He wanted to ensure training was appropriate for employees of various backgrounds including office workers, floor personnel, and engineers. The company contacted the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

##### Solution:

The ATN Jefferson State Community College Center created a customized training program based on specific safety and health issues, such as electrical safety, hazard communication and machine guarding. To do this, ATN performed a safety and health audit, photographing any issues that could endanger employees and noting any situations where Birmingham Fastener could make improvements to their current safety and health programs. These photographs were incorporated into the training materials, used as discussion points with employees. Employees learned how to recognize, report, and correct hazards. Also covered in training was an introduction to OSHA, where participants learned of their rights and responsibilities and regulations which apply to their industry. ATN conducted three ten-hour courses for 45 employees, and all employees passed a comprehensive test at the completion of the training.

The training led to an improved work environment due to the new skills and awareness gained. The company feels that the training will lead to an even safer work environment and potential entry into new markets. Based upon these results, Birmingham Fastener plans to continue to use the services of ATN in the future.

##### Results:

- \* Invested \$50,000 in safety equipment, warning signs, safety software and additional safety training.
- \* Hired 2 new safety lead personnel.
- \* Anticipate a decrease in workers compensation costs over next 12 months.
- \* Improved work environment.
- \* Potential entry into new markets.

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**Testimonial:**

"Our employees are more aware of potential hazards and how to work more safely than before the Alabama Technology Network training."

Derryl Salzburn, Safety/HR Director